

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please amend paragraph [0015] which begins on page 5, line 18 as follows:

The ball-point pen in accordance with the present invention made in order to solve the above-mentioned problems is a ball-point pen having a writing tip at a top end of which a writing ball is rotatably supported, an ink storage tube inside of which ink is stored, and a joint member for connecting the above-mentioned writing tip and the above-mentioned ink storage tube and supplying the ink in the ink storage tube to the above-mentioned writing tip side, characterized in that a cover member is further provided which can be fitted and mounted along a perimeter surface of the above-mentioned joint member or along the inside of a mounting hole formed in the above-mentioned joint member, and ~~a part of~~ the above-mentioned cover member is arranged in dimensions so as not to approach within 0.2 mm of the above-mentioned writing tip when the above-mentioned cover member is fitted along the perimeter surface of the above-mentioned joint member or along the inside of the mounting hole.

Please amend paragraph [0016] which begins on page 5, line 34 as follows:

According to this ball-point pen, it is arranged in dimensions that when the cover member is fitted along the perimeter surface of the joint member or along the inside of the mounting hole, ~~the part of~~ the cover member does not approach within 0.2 mm of the writing tip. Thus, even if there are individual molding variations of the cover member, the writing tip, the joint member, etc. as described above and the above-mentioned various types of variations in the assembly machine

and the jig, it is possible to finish a product without damaging the writing tip when the above-mentioned cover member is fitted.

Please amend paragraph [0019] which begins on page 6, line 29 as follows:

Further, desirably it is arranged in dimensions that ~~the part of~~ the above-mentioned cover member does not approach within 0.2 mm of the writing tip in a relative movement range of the cover member after starting to fit the above-mentioned cover member along the perimeter surface of the above-mentioned joint member or along the inside of the mounting hole until completion of the mounting.

Please amend paragraph [0020] which begins on page 7, line 1 as follows:

Thus, since it is arranged in dimensions that ~~the part of~~ the above-mentioned cover member does not approach within 0.2 mm of the writing tip in the relative movement range of the cover member after starting to fit the cover member to the joint member until completion of the mounting, it is possible to further reduce a degree of damage to the writing tip by means of the above-mentioned cover member.

Please amend paragraph [0030] which begins on page 11, line 12 as follows:

In other words, it is arranged in dimensions that ~~a part of~~ the cover member does not approach within 0.2 mm of the writing tip 1 in the relative movement range of the cover member after starting to fit the cover member 6 along the perimeter surface of the joint member 3 until

completion of the mounting. Therefore, according to this structure, it is possible to avoid the problem that a part of the opening 6d comes into contact with and damages the writing tip 1 when the cover member 6 is mounted.

Please amend paragraph [0040] which begins on page 14, line 4 as follows:

The cover member 6 as shown in FIGS. 6 and 7 is positioned so that an end of the cover member may be brought into contact with the perimeter surface of the second joint member 4 as shown in FIG. 6 and as indicated by arrow K, and when the axis of the cover member 6 and the axis of the joint member 4 are aligned, the above-mentioned cover member 6 is arranged in dimensions so as not to approach within the predetermined range (0.2 mm) around the above-mentioned writing tip 1 as shown by dash double-dotted lines. Therefore, according to the structure of the cover member 6 as shown in this FIG. 7, ~~the part of~~ the cover member 6 does not come into contact with the writing tip 1 when the cover member 6 is about to be fitted to the perimeter surface of the second joint member 4, thus avoiding the problem of damaging the writing tip 1.

Please amend paragraph [0042] which begins on page 14, line 27 as follows:

In other words, it is arranged in dimensions that ~~the part of~~ the cover member does not approach within 0.2 mm of the writing tip 1 in the relative movement range of the cover member after starting to fit the cover member 6 along the perimeter surface of the joint member 4 until completion of the mounting. Therefore, according to this structure, it is possible to effectively avoid the problem that the part of the opening 6d comes into contact with and damages the writing

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tip 1 when the cover member 6 is mounted.